

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Delete the abstract and replace with the following:

A tubular spacer and a method for the manufacture of the spacer is described. The tubular spacer has a first rim on a first end, a second rim on its opposite second end, and a jacket extending between said first and said second rims. The jacket has a tapered section adjacent to at least one end. The spacer is suitable for use in tubular bone surgery where it is necessary that the spacer adapts to different bone cross-sections. To make this tubular spacer, a cylinder having a tubular jacket body is expanded and/or narrowed at one or both of its ends. Methods for using the spacer as well as kits for making the spacers are described.